

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1684

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, RQ, CU
SUBJ: PUERTO RICO: CUBAN POSITION IN THE UN

REF: STATE 151050

1. ACTING USINT CHIEF, JUNE 20, COVERED REFTEL TALKING POINTS WITH MARTA JIMENEZ, DIRECTOR OF UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (MINREX). MISS JIMENEZ TOOK NOTE OF POINTS AND EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN LINK BETWEEN PUERTO RICO ISSUE AND US-CUBAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. PRESUMABLY ATTENTIVE TO CASTRO'S PUBLIC DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND DR. BRZEZINSKI (SEE HAVANA 1656), SHE ASKED ABOUT SECRETARY'S POSITION ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. WHEN TOLD THAT SECRETARY HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS ABOUT CUBAN POSTURE ON PUERTO RICO, MISS JIMENEZ NOTED THIS FACT WITH INTEREST.

2. ASIDE FROM NOTING USG RECOGNITION THAT CUBA WOULD NOT DROP POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE CAUSE AND QUESTIONING ACTING USINT CHIEF ON PRECISE DATE ENVISAGED FOR PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL REFERENDUM, MISS JIMENEZ DECLINED TO MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. SHE SAID THAT CUBAN POSTURE ON COMMITTEE OF 24 DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IS STILL BEING WORKED OUT AND THAT SHE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE
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UP US APPROACH WITH HIGHER GOC AUTHORITIES. SHE PROMISED TO BE IN CONTACT LATER ON THIS MATTER.

3. BEGIN COMMENT: WHILE WE SHARE DEPARTMENT'S SKEPTICISM THAT CUBANS WILL ELECT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH US ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, THERE IS AT LEAST A SMALL BASIS FOR HOPE: A) CUBANS ARE INTERESTED IN FORTIFYING POSITIONS

OF THOSE IN US WHO THEY VIEW AS PARTISANS OF US-CUBAN
NORMALIZATION--PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR PRIVATE COMMUNICA-
TIONS FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG OR SECRETARY VANCE WILL THUS
CARRY WEIGHT WITH THEM; B) PROMISE OF POLITICAL REFERENDUM
ON PUERTO RICO, PARTICULARLY IF DATE IS SET, OFFERS
CUBANS A DEVICE WHICH WOULD MORE EASILY JUSTIFY POSTPONE-
MENT OF SUBSTANTIVE ACTION IN UN; AND C) IN EVENT USG ELECTS
TO RELEASE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR AMERICAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS HERE, CUBANS THROUGH THIS ACTION
WILL BE ABLE, OUTSIDE UN, TO DEMONSTRATE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICE
FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE PARTISANS.

4. ON OTHER SIDE OF COIN, OF COURSE, IS POWERFUL URGE ON
PART OF CUBANS TO USE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE AS COUNTERPOINT TO
ATTACKS ON CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA. IN THE FINAL
ANALYSIS, THIS CONSIDERATION WILL PROBABLY PREVAIL. END COMMENT.
GLASSMAN

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